United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2007

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Letter of transmittal

[9 July 2007]

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/130 of 14 December 2006. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2007.

(*Signed*) Margaret Hughes **Ferrari**
Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard
to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Chapter I
Organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Relevant resolutions and membership of the Special Committee

1. At its sixty-first session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/130 of 14 December 2006, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 2006 and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the Second International Decade in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories, and also called upon the administering Powers that had not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2007.

2. In addition to resolution 61/130, the General Assembly adopted 11 other resolutions and a decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2006, which are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensus and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	58/316[a]	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	61/125	14 December 2006
New Caledonia	61/126	14 December 2006
Tokelau	61/127	14 December 2006
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	61/128 A and B	14 December 2006

[a] In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, the item should remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

Decisions

Territory/Title	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Gibraltar	61/522	14 December 2006

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/61/23).

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	61/122	14 December 2006
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	61/123	14 December 2006
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	61/231	22 December 2006
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	61/124	14 December 2006
Dissemination of information on decolonization	61/129	14 December 2006

3. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

3. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session that were relevant to the work of and were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2007/L.1).

4. Membership of the Special Committee

4. As at 1 January 2007, the Special Committee was composed of the following 27 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

5. A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 2007 appears in document A/AC.109/2007/INF/1.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2007 and election of officers

6. The Deputy Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2007. The Chair made a statement at that meeting. Statements were made by the representatives of Congo, Mali, Indonesia, Cuba, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.1).

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chair:
Margaret Hughes Ferrari (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Vice-Chairmen:
Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz (Cuba)
Luc Joseph Okio (Congo)

Rapporteur:
Bashar Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

8. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair, the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee. The Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chair relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/2007/L.2).

9. Also at the 1st meeting, the Chair made a statement relating to the organization of work (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.1).

10. At the same meeting, the Chair also informed the Committee that Afghanistan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Namibia, Peru, Thailand and Uganda, as well as the Holy See, had requested to participate as observers, in the opening meeting of the Committee. The Committee decided to accede to those requests. The Committee also acceded to the participation in the meeting of delegates of Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain.

11. At the 3rd meeting, on 5 June 2007, the Chair informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of Gibraltar. The Special Committee decided to accede to that request.

12. At the 5th meeting, on 14 June 2007, the Chair informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Panama had expressed the wish to participate in the resumed session of the Special Committee. The Special Committee decided to accede to that request.

13. At the 8th meeting, on 21 June 2007, the Chair informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay (on behalf of the States members of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), as well as Bolivia and Chile), Peru and Uruguay, had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Special Committee decided to accede to those requests.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

14. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary body were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below,

by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

15. The Special Committee held nine meetings at Headquarters during 2007, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 22 February; 2nd meeting, 26 April.

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd and 4th meetings, 5 and 6 June; 5th and 6th meetings, 14 June; 7th and 8th meetings, 20 and 21 June; 9th meeting, 27 June.

16. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meeting*	*Decision*
Dissemination of information on decolonization	4th	Chap. XII, draft resolution VII
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	4th	Chap. XII, draft resolution I
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	4th	Chap. IV, para. 89
Special Committee decision of 12 June 2006 concerning Puerto Rico	5th, 6th	Chap. I, para. 25
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands	7th	Chap. XII, draft resolution VI
Question of Tokelau	9th	Chap. XII, draft resolution V
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	8th	Chap. XI, para. 148
Gibraltar	3rd	Chap. VIII
Question of New Caledonia	7th	Chap. XII, draft resolution IV
Western Sahara	4th	Chap. VIII, para. 123
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	7th	Chap. XII, draft resolution III
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	7th	Chap. XII, draft resolution II
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	7th	Chap. XII, draft resolution VIII

2. Subsidiary bodies

Bureau

17. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2007, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2007/L.2), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of

the Committee. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held nine meetings.

18. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, the Special Committee adopted a report on pending matters related to its work (A/AC.109/2007/L.14), without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

19. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2007/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session,[2] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 2007, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee also recalled that, in paragraph 19 of its resolution 61/130, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 2007.

20. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-second session (see A/AC.109/2007/L.14, para. 11).

Special Committee decision of 12 June 2006 concerning Puerto Rico[3]

21. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2007, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2007/L.2), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 12 June 2006 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it at plenary meetings.

22. At the 3rd and 5th meetings, on 5 and 14 June 2007, the Chair drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. At its 3rd and 5th meetings, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and heard the representatives of the organizations concerned at its 5th and 6th meetings (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.5-6), as follows:

(a) *5th meeting*: Celina Romany Siaca, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; Fernando Martin, Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP); Eduardo Villanueva Muñoz, Portavoz Comité Pro Derechos Humanos; Enrique Baquero, Fundación Acción Democrática Puertorriqueña; Wilma Reverón, Comité Puerto Rico En La Onu; Manuel Rivera, Puertorriqueños Unidos En Acción (PUA); Paula Santiago, Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico; Argiris Malapanis, Socialist Workers Party; Luis Vega Ramos, House of Representatives (Puerto Rico); Aledia Centeno Rodríguez,

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/61/23), chap. I, para. 27.

[3] Ibid., para. 34.

Frente Patriotico Arecibeño; Dinorah La Luz, American Association of Jurists; Eduardo Bhatia, Office of the Governor of Puerto Rico in the United States; Dominique A. Gilormini-De Garcia, Fuerza Electoral Puertorriqueña Movement; César J. Pérez Lizasuain, Estudiantes de Derecho Hostosianos Pro Independencia; Carlos M. Hernández López, Frente Autonomista; Benjamin Ramos Rosado, ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; Ismael Guadalupe Ortiz, Vieques, Si!; Marie Merill Ramirez, Colectivo de Trabajo Pro-Independencia de Mayagüez and Jannette Ramos Garcia, Unidad en La Acción, Coordinadora Nacional Rompiendo el Perímetro;

(b) *6th meeting*: Mary Anne Grady Flores, Ithaca Catholic Worker Vieques Support Group; Julio A. Muriente Pérez, Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano; Betty Brassell, United for Vieques; Héctor Iván Santos, PROELA; Manuel A. Rodríguez Banchs, Frente Socialista; Pedro Colón Almenas, Socialist Workers Movement; Erasto Zayas Nuñez, Gran Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico.

23. At the 5th meeting, on 14 June, the representative of Cuba, also on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.7 (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.5).

24. At the 6th meeting, on 14 June, following statements by the representatives of Saint Lucia (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.7 without a vote (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.6).

25. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and Nicaragua (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.6).

26. Draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.7, adopted by the Special Committee at its 6th meeting, on 14 June 2007, reads as follows:

Special Committee decision of 12 June 2006 concerning Puerto Rico

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Considering that the period 1990-2000 was proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and that by resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Bearing in mind the 25 resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico, contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, in particular those adopted without a vote in recent years,

Recalling that 25 July 2007 marks the one hundred and ninth anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Also recalling the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in recent years, which have thus far failed to set in motion the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico,

Stressing the need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Noting that the inter-agency Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status designated by the President of the United States, which submitted its report on 22 December 2005, affirmed that Puerto Rico is a territory subject to United States congressional authority, and that initiatives concerning Puerto Rico's status have been subsequently presented to the Congress of the United States,

Also noting the "Panama Proclamation", adopted by the Latin American and Caribbean Congress for the Independence of Puerto Rico, which was held in Panama from 17 to 19 November 2006 and attended by 33 political parties from 22 countries of the region,

Further noting the debate in Puerto Rico on the search for a procedure that would make it possible to launch the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico, and aware of the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico,

Aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, was used for over 60 years by the United States Marines to carry out military exercises, with negative consequences for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of that Puerto Rican municipality,

Recalling the decision of the Government of the United States to put an end to the bombings and military exercises on Vieques Island from 1 May 2003, which was the outcome of the prolonged process conducted during years of peaceful protests carried out by the people of Puerto Rico as well as the wide campaign of international solidarity, which has been appropriately reflected in the work and documents of the Special Committee,

Noting the consensus existing among the people and the Government of Puerto Rico on the necessity of ensuring the clean-up, decontamination and return to the people of Puerto Rico of all the territory previously used for military exercises and installations, and of using them for the social and economic development of Puerto Rico,

Also noting the complaints made by the inhabitants of Vieques Island regarding the continued bombing and the use of open burning for clean-up, which exacerbate the existing health problems and pollution and endanger civilian lives,

Further noting the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of the Puerto Rican political prisoners who have been serving sentences in United States prisons for more than 26 years for cases related to the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence, as well as those serving sentences for cases related to the Vieques Island struggle for peace,

Noting the concern of the people of Puerto Rico regarding violent actions, including repression and intimidation, against Puerto Rican independence fighters in

Puerto Rico, including those that have recently come to light through documents declassified by federal agencies of the United States,

Also noting that in the final document of the Fourteenth Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Havana from 11 to 16 September 2006, and at other meetings of the Movement, the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence is reaffirmed on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV); the Government of the United States is urged to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence; the Government of the United States is urged to return the territory and occupied installations on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation; and the General Assembly is urged to actively consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects,

Having heard statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico,[4]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own unequivocal national identity;

3. *Calls upon* the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people fully to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico;

4. *Notes* the broad support of eminent persons, Governments and political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean for the independence of Puerto Rico;

5. *Also notes* the debate in Puerto Rico on the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all viewpoints prevailing in Puerto Rico, aware of the principle that any initiative for the solution of the political status of Puerto Rico should originate from the people of Puerto Rico;

6. *Expresses serious concern* regarding actions carried out against Puerto Rican independence fighters, and encourages the investigation of those actions with the necessary rigour and with the cooperation of the relevant authorities;

7. *Requests* the General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico comprehensively in all its aspects;

8. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and

[4] A/AC.109/2007/L.3.

the protection of their human rights, to complete the return of occupied land and installations on Vieques Island and in Ceiba to the people of Puerto Rico; respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development; and expedite and cover the costs of the process of cleaning up and decontaminating the impact areas previously used in military exercises through means that do not continue to aggravate the serious consequences of its military activity for the health of the inhabitants of Vieques Island and the environment;

9. *Requests* the President of the United States of America to release all Puerto Rican political prisoners serving sentences in United States prisons for over 26 years for cases relating to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico, as well as those serving sentences for cases relating to the Vieques Island peace struggle;

10. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee, in compliance with its resolution of 12 June 2006;

11. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report to the Special Committee in 2008 on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

27. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2007, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2007/L.2), the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the questions of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization, holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, pattern of conferences and other questions mentioned in paragraphs 29-40 below.

1. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

28. With reference to a decision listed in paragraph 27 above, the Special Committee took it into account in its consideration of specific items.

2. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

29. Having regard to its programme of work for 2007, the Special Committee, at its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2008 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure (see A/AC.109/2007/L.14, paras. 2 and 3).

3. Pattern of conferences

30. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements by circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-memoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents issued by the Special Committee in 2007 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

31. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolutions 61/236 of 22 December 2006. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had striven to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum. The Special Committee decided, taking into account its probable workload for 2008, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February/March/April	As required
June	Up to 30 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)

(b) *Bureau*

February-June	20 meetings

It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 2008, review the schedule of meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to strive, while fulfilling its mandate, to keep its meetings to a minimum (see A/AC.109/2007/L.14, paras. 5 and 7).

4. Control and limitation of documentation

32. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation and noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 D of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 61/236 B. The Special Committee noted that, in General Assembly resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the Assembly had approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records with summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records (see A/AC.109/2007/L.14, paras. 8-10).

5. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

33. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee (see chap. X). The delegation of France also participated in the related work of the Committee on the question of New Caledonia. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not formally participate in the work of the Special Committee.[5]

34. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007, adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution, the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a mission to observe the referendum in Tokelau was dispatched in February 2006. It also noted with satisfaction the cooperation of the United Kingdom, as an administering Power, in facilitating the Special Mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006 at the request of the territorial Government. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see chap. IV, para. 89).

6. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

35. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended in the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex), should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (see A/AC.109/L.1791, annex, and A/AC.109/L.1804). In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate (see A/AC.109/2007/L.14, para. 14).

7. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

36. The question of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories was considered by the Special Committee at its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, in connection with its consideration of the report of the Caribbean regional seminar (see chap. II).

[5] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

8. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

37. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 22 February 2007, the Committee would authorize its Chair to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chair would hold consultations with the Bureau members, who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Special Committee also decided that the Chair would also hold consultations with that member of the Committee whose regional group was not represented in the Bureau. It also decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2008 (see A/AC.109/2007/L.14, para. 4).

9. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

38. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2007, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2007/L.2), and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly and based on practice initiated by the Committee in 2005, the Committee decided to continue to formulate its decisions in General Assembly form and to submit them to the Assembly at its sixty-second session.

39. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chair, authorized the Rapporteur to submit directly to the Assembly the report in accordance with established practice and procedure.

10. Other questions

40. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2007, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chair (see A/AC.109/2007/L.2), the Special Committee decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and a decision listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2007/L.1, para. 11). These resolutions and a decision were taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. United Nations bodies

41. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 21

of General Assembly resolution 61/231 of 22 December 2006 relating to the item, consultations were held between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chair of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly (see E/2007/47). The Special Committee also took into account the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council at its first to the fifth sessions. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

2. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

42. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VI of the present report. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII).

3. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

43. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact with the African Union, the Caribbean Community and the Pacific Islands Forum on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of these regional intergovernmental organizations. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries regarding the issue of decolonization. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 61/129 and 61/130 of 14 December 2006, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Special Committee during the period under review is covered in detail in the Special Committee documents (see A/AC.109/2007/18) and the present report (see para. 22 above). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in chapter XII of the present report.

H. Action relating to international conventions and programmes

44. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in the Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

I. Review of work

45. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, continued to be actively pursued in 2007. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions and eliminating duplication in its documentation (see para. 31 above). The Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (see chap. XII, draft resolutions V and VI).

46. The Special Committee also considered and submitted recommendations on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, the question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories, implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

47. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a Caribbean regional seminar in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22 to 24 May 2007 on the next steps in decolonization.

48. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

49. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the dissemination of information on decolonization, which it recommends to the General Assembly for action at its sixty-second session (see chap. XII, draft resolution VII).

50. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 12 June 2006 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter, which is set out in paragraph 22 of the present chapter.

51. During the period under review, the Special Committee continued the critical review of its work and its programme of future work by holding a number of informal meetings.

52. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

53. During 2007, the work of the Committee focused on next steps in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the plan of action for the Decade. In order to effectively carry out its mandate, the Committee sought the input of the representatives of the

Territories, experts and non-governmental organizations as well as Member States and intergovernmental organizations.

J. Future work

54. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961 and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its sixty-second session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 2008 to pursue its efforts in bringing a speedy end to colonialism, in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/146, and particularly with regard to the implementation of the plan of action contained in the annex to document A/56/61.

55. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under continuous review, examining the impact of developments concerning each Territory on their advancement towards a full measure of self-government. It will also review the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. In order to carry out this analysis, the Special Committee will continue to seek the input of representatives of the Territories, non-governmental organizations from the Territories and experts inviting them to attend its meetings and regional seminars and also by visiting the Territories to gather first-hand information.

56. In 2008, the Special Committee intends to continue and intensify its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers for the purpose of the development of programmes of work for the decolonization of specific Territories with the participation of representatives of the Territories at every stage of discussion. With regard to Tokelau, the Special Committee fully supports the preparations by New Zealand and the territorial Government for the referendum scheduled for October 2007 in exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of Tokelau, and stands ready to continue to be engaged as needed.

57. The Special Committee will continue to conduct the regional seminars, for the purpose of assessing, receiving and disseminating information on the situation in the Territories, in order to facilitate the implementation of its mandate. It will also continue to disseminate information on the work of the Special Committee. In this connection, the Special Committee will hold a seminar in the Pacific region in 2008.

58. The Special Committee will continue to seek the cooperation of the administering Powers in facilitating United Nations visiting and special missions to the Territories under their administration. The Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples concerning their future status. The Special Committee will explore the possibility of combining visiting missions to certain Territories with regional seminars in order to optimize its available resources.

59. The Special Committee will continue to use opportunities such as the regional seminars and visiting and special missions to disseminate information on its activities and on the Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the people of the Territories in bringing about a speedy end to colonialism. It also intends to develop, together with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, programmes aimed at Territories that have requested information about self-determination options.

60. The Special Committee will continue to pay attention to the specific problems of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories which suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources and vulnerability to drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal activities. The Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies.

61. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international and regional institutions associated with the United Nations. The Special Committee will hold consultations with those organizations, as appropriate, and will continue the practice of holding consultations between its Chair and the President of the Economic and Social Council in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as to facilitate participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. The Special Committee intends to take into account economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected.

62. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 2008, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 2008, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

63. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its sixty-second session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 2008. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned and request those administering Powers

that have not yet done so to become involved with the work of the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories.

64. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 2008. In that regard, the Special Committee notes that the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 2008, based on the level of activities approved for 2007, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its sixty-second session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 2007 session

65. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, the Chair made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2007 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.9).

Annex

List of documents of the Special Committee, 2007

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/2007/INF/1	List of delegations	21 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/1	Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Caribbean regional seminar on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: next steps in decolonization, to be held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22 to 24 May 2007: guidelines and rules of procedure	20 April 2007
A/AC.109/2007/2	Cayman Islands (working paper)	26 February 2007
A/AC.109/2007/3	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	5 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/4	Montserrat (working paper)	6 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/5	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	14 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/6	Pitcairn (working paper)	9 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/7	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	14 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/8	Anguilla (working paper)	26 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/9	New Caledonia (working paper)	22 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/10	Bermuda (working paper)	27 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/11	Tokelau (working paper)	27 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/12 and Corr.1	Gibraltar (working paper)	28 March 2007 1 May 2007
A/AC.109/2007/13*	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	27 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/14	Saint Helena (working paper)	28 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/15	American Samoa (working paper)	27 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/16	Guam (working paper)	28 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/17	Western Sahara (working paper)	28 March 2007
A/AC.109/2007/18	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from April 2006 to February 2007: report of the Secretary-General	27 February 2007

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the limited series		
A/AC.109/2007/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	22 November 2006
A/AC.109/2007/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Chair	22 November 2006
A/AC.109/2007/L.3	Special Committee decision of 12 June 2006 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	5 April 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.4	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	1 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.5	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	1 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.6	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	1 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.7	Special Committee decision of 12 June 2006 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Cuba	11 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.8	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia, Chile, Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	12 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.9	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Chair	15 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.10	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	8 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.11	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	8 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.12	Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chair	8 June 2007

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2007/L.13	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	14 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.14	Report of the Special Committee	20 June 2007
A/AC.109/2007/L.15	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	18 June 2007

Chapter II

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

66. At its 1st meeting, on 22 February 2007, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendations of its Chair on the organization of work of the Special Committee for the year (see A/AC.109/2007/L.2), decided to allocate to plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

67. The Special Committee considered the question of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Caribbean regional seminar on next steps in decolonization at its 1st, 2nd, and 9th meetings, on 22 February, 26 April and 27 June 2007.

68. The Special Committee had before it the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Caribbean regional seminar (A/AC.109/2007/1).

69. At its 2nd meeting, on 26 April 2007, following a statement by the Chair, the Special Committee approved the composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee to the Caribbean regional seminar (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.2).

70. The Special Committee also decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they had taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-third session, subject to any directives that the Assembly might give at its sixty-second session in that regard (see A/AC.109/2007/L.14, para. 13).

71. At its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007, the Special Committee adopted without a vote draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.10, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", submitted by the Chair.

72. At its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Caribbean regional seminar, which had been circulated to members of the Special Committee as a conference room paper (A/AC.109/2007/CRP.2) (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.9).

73. At the same meeting, following the statement by the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Committee adopted the draft report of the Caribbean regional seminar and decided to annex it to its report to the General Assembly. The full text of the report of the Caribbean regional seminar is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

74. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to take no action on a draft decision contained in the annex to chapter II of its report to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly[1] and remove it from the Committee's agenda.

75. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.10 adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007, appears in the present report, in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution VIII).

Annex

Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: "Next steps in decolonization", held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22 to 24 May 2007

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action set out in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61) contains an updated plan of action.

2. In its resolution 61/130 of 14 December 2006, the General Assembly approved the programme of work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples envisaged for 2007, including the holding of a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee and attended by the representatives of all the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. As stated in the guidelines and rules of procedure for the seminar (A/AC.109/2007/1), the purpose of the seminar is to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, in order to define next steps in decolonization for follow-up and intensified action in the remaining years of the Decade. The seminar will also assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-government and self-determination, with a view to developing, in cooperation with the administering Powers and the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The seminar will also identify areas in which the United Nations system and the international community at large could enhance programmes of assistance to the Territories within an integral framework ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

4. The seminar's discussions will assist the Special Committee in making a realistic analysis and evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The seminar will give pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It will also secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of the Territories.

5. The contributions of the participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the seminar

6. The seminar was held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22 to 24 May 2007.

7. The seminar consisted of five meetings, in which representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, non-governmental, regional and other organizations and experts took part.

The list of participants is given in appendix I. The seminar was organized to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

8. The seminar was conducted by Margaret Hughes Ferrari, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations and Chair of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Special Committee: Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Grenada (host country), Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). France and the United States of America, administering Powers, participated in the seminar as observers. Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain also participated.

9. At the 1st meeting, on 22 May 2007, the following members of the Special Committee were appointed Vice-Chairmen of the seminar: Luc Joseph Okio (Congo) and Sofia Borges (Timor-Leste). Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz (Cuba) was appointed Rapporteur of the seminar. The Rapporteur also chaired the work of the drafting group, which was composed of the representatives of all members of the Special Committee attending the seminar: Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Grenada (host country), Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

10. The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

1. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:
   - (a) Identifying next steps;
   - (b) Strengthening cooperation with the administering Powers;
   - (c) Improving the participation of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.
2. Perspectives of administering Powers and territorial Governments, as well as views of experts on steps towards the completion of the decolonization process:
   - (a) In the Caribbean region;
   - (b) In the Pacific region;
   - (c) In other Non-Self-Governing Territories.
3. Follow-up to the 2006 Pacific regional seminar, including the case of Tokelau:
   - (a) Perspective of the Special Committee;
   - (b) Perspective of the administering Powers;
   - (c) Perspective of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
   - (d) Views of experts.

4. Role of the United Nations system in providing developmental assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories: presentations by the United Nations Development Programme and others.

5. Recommendations on advancing the decolonization process for the remainder of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

III. Overview of the seminar

A. Proceedings of the seminar

11. On 22 May, Margaret Hughes Ferrari (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) opened the seminar in her capacity as the Chair.

12. Elvin Nimrod, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Grenada, addressed the seminar.

13. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix II).

14. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Special Committee made a statement.

15. On 24 May, at the fifth meeting, the Chair made a concluding statement.

16. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Grenada (see appendix III).

B. Statements and discussions[a]

17. At the 1st meeting, on 22 May, the Chair made a statement. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Cuba, Montserrat, Gibraltar and Spain. The Chair made further statement.

18. At the 2nd meeting, on 22 May, representatives of Frente Polisario, Morocco, Algeria, Cuba and the Chair made statements on point of order. Expert Howard Fergus made a presentation on decolonization efforts in Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories.

19. At the 3rd meeting, on 23 May, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[b] Frente Polisario and Turks and Caicos Islands. The representative of Algeria made a statement on the point of order. The representative of Morocco made further statement. Expert La Verne E. Ragster made a presentation on the proposed constitution for the United States Virgin Islands. The observer from Saint Helena made a statement.

20. At the 4th meeting, on 23 May, the statements were made by the representatives of Algeria and Chile. The representatives of Algeria and Morocco made statements in the exercise of the right of reply. The representative of the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean made a presentation on the Non-Self-Governing

[a] All statements and discussion papers of the seminar are available from the United Nations decolonization website, http://www.un.org/Depts/dpi/decolonization.

[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Territories in the Caribbean region. At the same meeting, the statements were made by the representatives of non-governmental organizations, Anguilla National Council of Women and Grenada Education and Development Programme.

21. At the 5th meeting, on 24 May, the participants considered the draft report of the seminar presented by the Rapporteur of the seminar, Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz (Cuba).

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

22. At the 5th meeting, on 24 May 2007, the Chair presented to the participants the conclusions and recommendations outlined below.

A. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

1. Eradicating colonialism, the role of the Special Committee and the plan of action

1. The Seminar reconfirmed that the United Nations has a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization. The mandate of the Special Committee is a major programme of the United Nations. United Nations support should be provided, until all outstanding decolonization issues are resolved in a satisfactory manner.

2. The participants reaffirmed the role of the Special Committee as the primary vehicle for fostering the process of decolonization and for expediting the implementation of the plan of action to move towards achieving the goals of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, in accordance with resolution 55/146, as well as for monitoring the situation in the Territories.

3. The seminar recommended that the Special Committee continue to monitor the evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards achieving self-determination, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions.

4. The Special Committee should include, as appropriate, the participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis, in the consultations between the Special Committee and the administering Powers.

5. The implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, set out in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, is not complete so long as there remain Non-Self-Governing Territories that have yet to exercise their right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant resolutions, including General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions on special and particular colonial situations. The inalienable rights of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be guaranteed by the United Nations and the Special Committee in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960.

6. As long as the administering Powers exercise unilateral authority to make laws and other regulations affecting the Non-Self-Governing Territories without their consent, pursuant to such methods as legislation, orders in council and other methods, a Territory should not be considered self-governing.

7. In the process of decolonization, and where there are no disputes over sovereignty, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right. All available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and as enunciated in resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), and in other relevant resolutions and decisions.

8. Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

9. The participants noted that in the development of work programmes for individual Territories, the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in which there is no dispute over sovereignty should be ensured. They also pointed out that any work programme should include an information and education campaign for the peoples of those Territories, visiting missions of the Special Committee to ascertain the situation in the Territories first-hand and a consultation process acceptable to the peoples in the Territories leading to the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

10. In order to enhance the exchange of information, the Special Committee, in consultation with the administering Power and the territorial Governments, will explore the possibility of the establishment of a "Special Committee focal point" in each Non-Self-Governing Territory, in which there is no dispute over sovereignty, to help facilitate the Special Committee's working-level contacts with elected territorial Governments.

11. The Special Committee should continue to develop a mechanism to systematically review, on an annual basis, the implementation of the specific recommendations on decolonization, with a focus on implementing the mandate as set out in Assembly resolutions and the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

12. In view of the variety of circumstances of individual Non-Self-Governing Territories, some participants noted the need to consider the adoption of new thinking on decolonization within the context of the current global realities, on a case-by-case basis. The Special Committee agreed to think creatively of possibilities among the array of legitimate "transitions to self-determination", provided that the people of a Territory have the opportunity to make a fully informed choice. In that regard, the Chair's statement was welcomed by several speakers.

13. In cases where a particular Non-Self-Governing Territory is clearly in favour of building upon the basis of its existing situation, the Special Committee might wish to consider steps that it could take, bearing in mind the Territory's interests in that regard; the United Nations goal of decolonization could thus be achieved in a relatively straightforward fashion.

2. Public awareness and information campaigns

14. Continued examination of the spectrum of options for self-determination by all parties concerned and dissemination of relevant information among the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are important elements in achieving the goals of

the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and of the plan of action.

15. In that regard, the seminar underscored the importance of education, awareness-raising, and continued dialogue on self-determination and decolonization issues aimed at and involving the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

16. The participants affirmed the need for the Special Committee, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, actively to embark on a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination included in the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization, especially within the context of developing programmes of work for specific Territories. The programme should disseminate information with the aim of raising public awareness in the Territories in order to heighten people's understanding of the legitimate political status options available to them in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including the 1960 Declaration.

17. In that connection, the participants encouraged the Department of Public Information to continue to disseminate relevant information, including to the media, non-governmental organizations and civic groups, using the tools of communication available to it and making use of such opportunities as regional seminars and visiting missions. United Nations information centres can assist in this process. The participants welcomed the new brochure issued in March 2007, prepared by the Department of Public Information and the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs entitled "What the United Nations can do to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories", which is also available on the United Nations decolonization website.

18. The participants encouraged the United Nations to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories that are granted observer status at United Nations world summits and conferences and at special sessions of the General Assembly by facilitating the dissemination of information to them regarding those meetings.

19. The participants reiterated that electoral assistance for a Non-Self-Governing Territory, in which there is no dispute over sovereignty, regarding any act of self-determination can be made available at the request of any administering Power and the respective Territory.

3. Visiting and special missions

20. Participants stressed that the Special Committee's visiting and special missions represent key factors in raising public awareness of decolonization issues and possible options available for self-determination. The positive impact of such missions was also noted. Moreover, visiting and special missions provide an opportunity to assess the situation in those Territories, and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status.

21. In addition, the participants noted the interest expressed at the seminar by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in such visiting and special missions. They urged that such missions be undertaken as soon as possible, and called on the administering Powers to cooperate in their facilitation, where there are no sovereignty disputes. They reiterated the importance of such missions in

conjunction with innovative, more cost-effective approaches to ascertaining a representative range of public opinion in select Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Regional seminars

22. As activities of the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, regional seminars serve as an effective forum for focused discussion on matters of concern to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and afford opportunities for representatives of the peoples of the Territories to present their views and recommendations to the Special Committee. The administering Powers should facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Territories in the seminars in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

23. The regional nature of the seminars, alternating between the Caribbean and the Pacific, remains a crucial element in their success. The participants encouraged the Committee, whenever possible, to hold these events in the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves.

24. The participants took note of the decision of the Special Committee to coordinate its annual seminars with other relevant activities to be conducted in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including visiting and special missions, as appropriate, in order to better utilize its resources.

25. The Special Committee should adopt the report of the regional seminar held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22-24 May 2007, and include it in its report to the General Assembly, as it did with the reports of the previous regional seminars. The participants also recommended that the Special Committee integrate, to the extent possible, the recommendations of the regional seminars into its relevant resolutions on decolonization, as those recommendations are important expressions of the will of the people of the territories.

26. The participants reiterated the importance of the conclusions and recommendations at the previous regional seminars, held in Vanuatu (1990), Barbados (1990), Grenada (1992), Papua New Guinea (1993, 1996 and 2004), Trinidad and Tobago (1995), Antigua and Barbuda (1997), Fiji (1998, 2002 and 2006), Saint Lucia (1999), the Marshall Islands (2000), Cuba (2001), Anguilla (2003) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2005).

5. Role of the administering Powers and other Member States of the United Nations

27. The participants welcomed the presence of the representatives of France and the United States, and welcomed the statement by New Zealand with regard to Tokelau, indicating its continued cooperation with the Special Committee. They regretted the lack of representation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and reiterated their call upon all administering Powers to engage the Special Committee in constructive dialogue in the future.

28. The seminar once again recommended that the Special Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories engage in constructive discussions and innovative ways to expedite the implementation of the goals of the Second International Decade and its plan of action for the Eradication of Colonialism as set out in General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December

2000. Participants nonetheless reiterated that progress could only be achieved with the active cooperation of the administering Powers. The Special Committee will consider whether it might be useful to reiterate the request for the use of the Secretary-General's "good offices" in this process.

29. The participants drew the attention of the administering Powers to the three options listed in resolution 1541 (XV) (annex), in which the Assembly stated that a Non-Self-Governing Territory could be said to have reached a full measure of self-government, as envisaged in the Charter, by: (a) emergence as a sovereign independent State; (b) free association with an independent State; or (c) integration with an independent State.

30. Participants suggested the applicability of resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, containing the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which states, inter alia, that "The establishment of a sovereign and independent State, the free association or integration with an independent State or the emergence into any other political status freely determined by people constitute modes of implementing the right of self-determination by that people".

31. The Special Committee expressed its appreciation to Algeria, Argentina, Morocco and Spain for their participation in the seminar and encouraged other States Members to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee.

C. Perspectives of administering Powers, representatives of Territories and experts in the Caribbean region

32. The seminar welcomed the presence of representatives from the Caribbean, including from a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories (Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands), as well as experts and/or non-governmental organizations from the region (Anguilla, Grenada, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, and United States Virgin Islands).

33. The seminar took note of the establishment of the Cayman Islands Constitutional Review Secretariat, which had begun its work in March 2007 on a constitutional review process.

34. In the case of Montserrat, participants encouraged the administering Power to commit reasonable budgetary resources for the economic and other development needs of the Territory, particularly in terms of the special needs remaining since the volcanic eruption of 1995.

35. The participants welcomed the new constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands which took effect in August 2006, and took note of the emphasis placed by the territorial Government on economic development and modernization.

36. The participants appreciated the statement by an expert from the University of the United States Virgin Islands outlining the University's efforts in implementing a public education programme on the upcoming Constitutional Convention, and in undertaking a variety of other functions in that regard. The representative noted that while this exercise did not cover the question of the Territory's status vis-à-vis the United States, that could follow at a later stage.

37. The participants also heard views presented by representatives of non-governmental organizations active in the Caribbean region. The representative of the Anguilla National Council of Women focused particularly on the importance of empowering women and youth in questions relating to decolonization. As part of her presentation to the seminar, the representative of the Grenada Education and Development Programme explored the interplay between the issues of economic viability and political independence.

D. Views of the representatives of other Non-Self-Governing Territories

38. The seminar also welcomed the presence of representatives from other Non-Self-Governing Territories (Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[b], Gibraltar, Western Sahara) and the observer from Saint Helena. The seminar expressed particular appreciation for the great effort made by the observer of Saint Helena to attend the event.

39. The participants, in considering the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), reiterated that the Special Committee should continue to encourage the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom with the aim of finding a lasting solution to the situation, taking into account the interests of the population of the Territory, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

40. The participants heard comments from the representative of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[b], who proposed that Argentina and the United Kingdom cooperate on practical issues in the south-west Atlantic.

41. The participants received an update from the representative of the Government of Gibraltar on constitutional developments, and welcomed the trilateral Framework of Dialogue between Gibraltar, Spain and the United Kingdom.

42. Participants took note of the remarks made by the observer of Saint Helena regarding its arrangements vis-à-vis the United Kingdom. The progress being made on Saint Helena's airport was welcomed.

43. With regard to Western Sahara, welcoming the developments of the last months, the participants supported Security Council resolution 1754 (2007) of 30 April 2007, which called, inter alia, for the parties to enter into negotiations without preconditions in good faith, taking into account the developments of the previous months, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and noting the role and the responsibilities of the parties in that respect. The participants also recalled the mandate of the Special Committee towards the self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

E. Follow-up to the 2006 Pacific regional seminar, including the case of Tokelau

44. The participants noted with concern the military installations and activities of the administering Powers in any of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, which run counter to the rights and interests of the people concerned and which create serious health and environmental hazards.

Case of Tokelau

45. The seminar noted the decision of Tokelau to hold a second referendum on its self-determination in November 2007 and expressed that the right to self-determination should be viewed and supported in its unique context (a case-by-case approach). It also noted that all three parties (Tokelau, the administering Power and the United Nations) involved should engage in a concerted effort to ensure that full information on the draft treaty and constitution is disseminated, discussed and consulted upon through a comprehensive awareness programme in the villages of Tokelau and among Tokelauans living abroad over the coming months leading up to the referendum.

F. Role of the United Nations system in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories

46. The Special Committee expressed its appreciation for the participation of the representative of ECLAC, and for his statement outlining the technical cooperation activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean. Participants acknowledged this cooperation and assistance from the United Nations system and regional organizations.

47. The participants supported closer cooperation between the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council in order to promote increased United Nations assistance in the economic and social sphere to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

48. All Non-Self-Governing Territories should be given access to relevant United Nations programmes in the economic and social sphere, including those emanating from the plans of action of United Nations major summits and conferences, in furtherance of capacity-building and consistent with the necessary preparation for the attainment of a full measure of internal self-government.

49. The seminar stressed that the wider United Nations system should continue to explore ways to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and seek concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions by the specialized agencies, as detailed in General Assembly resolution 56/67 of 10 December 2001.

50. The participants recognized the vulnerability of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, which continues to be of major concern, and also that their vulnerability would grow unless urgent steps were taken to address and strengthen the Territories' capacities, in accordance with the Mauritius Declaration.[c]

51. The seminar reiterated its support for the current participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant regional commissions of the United Nations and in the specialized agencies of the United Nations. It called for the increased involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system in furtherance of the decolonization process, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with the relevant

[c] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Luis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

United Nations resolutions and decisions, including General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on specific Territories.

52. The participants recommended that the Special Committee establish closer ties with relevant regional organizations and encouraged Non-Self-Governing Territories to develop closer contacts with them.

Appendix I

List of participants

Members of the Special Committee

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Margaret Hughes Ferrari* (Chair)
China	Bian Ge*
Chile	Jose Antonio Cousiño
Congo	Luc Joseph Okio* (Vice-Chairman)
Côte d'Ivoire	Guillaume Bailly-Niagri*
Cuba	Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz* (Vice-Chairman) Victoria M. Delgado
Grenada (Host country)	Angus Friday Cyrilla R. Steele
Indonesia	Hari Prabowo
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Hossein Maleki*
Russian Federation	Denis Paletskiy*
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Carlisle Richardson*
Timor-Leste	Sofia Borges
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Edna Figuera

States Members of the United Nations

Algeria	Mahieddine Djeffal
Argentina	Gerardo Abel Diaz Bartolomé Ana Marcela Pastorino
Morocco	Souad El Alaoui Gajmoula Bent Ebi Kaltoum Al Khayat M. Khaddad el Moussaoui
Spain	Alberto Virella

Administering Powers

France (observer)	Gérard Guillet
United States of America (observer)	Edgar Johnson

* Member of the official delegation of the Special Committee.

Non-Self-Governing Territories

Cayman Islands	Alden McLaughlin Orett Connor Suzanne Lookloy
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**	Richard Davies
Gibraltar	Joseph Holliday Perry Stieglitz Francis Cantos
Montserrat	Claude Hogan Sylvia Gabriel
Turks and Caicos Islands	Jeffrey C. Hall Olincia Missick
Western Sahara	Ahmed Boukhari

Organizations of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Ronald Williams
World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization	Gina Watson

Non-governmental organizations

Anguilla National Council of Women (Anguilla)	Lana Hoyoung
Grenada Education and Development Programme (Grenada)	Dessima Williams Gloria Payne-Banfield

Experts

Nicole Philip (Grenada)

Howard Fergus (Montserrat)

La Verne E. Ragster (United States Virgin Islands)

Tregenza A. Roach (United States Virgin Islands)

Observers

Joseph Bossano (Gibraltar)

William Drabble (Saint Helena)

** A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Appendix II

Message from the Secretary-General

In this Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, it gives me great pleasure to convey my greetings to all who have gathered in Grenada for the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization, my first message to a meeting convened by the Special Committee of 24. I would like to express my appreciation to the Government and people of Grenada for their generous hospitality in hosting this gathering.

Achieving self-government for the peoples of the world has been one of the cardinal goals of the United Nations since its inception. Under the Organization's auspices, nearly 750 million people have benefited from the exercise of the right to self-determination, and decolonization can truly be considered a United Nations success story.

Today, there are 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories remaining on the agenda of the United Nations. As an organ mandated to facilitate decolonization, the Special Committee organizes seminars such as this one to provide a forum for the 2 million people living in these Territories to air their views about the unique problems they face, and to promote direct communication between the Special Committee, the representatives of the Territories and the administering Powers. As we all know, cooperation between the administering Power, the Territories and the United Nations is essential for there to be progress in discharging the mandate of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

Later this year, in an important act of self-determination, Tokelau will hold a second referendum on the option of self-government in free association with New Zealand. The path followed by this small Pacific Territory in close cooperation with the administering Power is an example of what can be achieved when there is constructive political will. The close cooperation extended to the Committee by both parties stands out as exemplary.

Some of the other Territories, particularly in the Caribbean, have also made considerable progress in their constitutional, political, economic and social development, and have gone a long way towards self-government. I urge you all to continue working together to find the appropriate format and timing for the completion of the decolonization process in each Territory.

I wish you a productive and successful seminar.

Appendix III

Resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and the people of Grenada

The participants in the Caribbean regional seminar,

Having met from 22 to 24 May 2007 in Saint George's, Grenada, for the purpose of reviewing next steps in the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having heard the important statement by the Honourable Elvin Nimrod, the Foreign Minister of Grenada,

Taking note of the important statements by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Grenada for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Saint George's.

Chapter III
Dissemination of information on decolonization

76. The Special Committee considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007.

77. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 61/129 on the dissemination of information on decolonization and resolution 61/130 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

78. The Special Committee held consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat at its 4th meeting, on 6 June (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.4).

79. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Special Committee drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2007/18) and a draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chair (A/AC.109/2007/L.4).

80. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Congo, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saint Lucia (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.4).

81. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.4 without a vote.

82. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.4, adopted by the Special Committee at its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution VII).

Chapter IV
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

83. The Special Committee considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories at its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007.

84. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, the pertinent provisions of resolution 61/130 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolutions 61/127 and 61/128 A and B of 14 December 2006 relating to specific Territories.

85. In addition, the Special Committee considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 61/129 and 61/130, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

86. At the 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007, the Chair drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2007/L.6) (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.4).

87. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.6 without a vote.

88. By adopting at its 7th meeting, on 20 June, a consolidated resolution on 11 small Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2007/L.9) and at its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, a resolution on Tokelau (A/AC.109/2007/L.15), the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting and special missions to Territories, as reflected in its recommendations to the General Assembly (see also chap. XII, draft resolution V, on the question of Tokelau, and draft resolution VI, on the question of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands).

89. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.6 adopted by the Special Committee at its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007, reads as follows:

Question of sending visiting and special missions to Territories

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514

(XV) of 14 December 1960, in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and in the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[1]

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a mission to observe the referendum in Tokelau was dispatched in February 2006,[2]

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, in facilitating the United Nations special missions to the Turks and Caicos Islands in April 2006[3] at the request of the territorial Government,

Welcoming the invitation extended to the Special Committee by the Governor of American Samoa to send a visiting mission to the Territory,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization and the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;[1]

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers that have not yet done so to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by facilitating United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee in exploring the possibility of undertaking visiting or special missions in furtherance of the decolonization mandate of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* its Chair to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report thereon to the Special Committee on the results of those consultations.

[1] A/56/61, annex.
[2] See A/AC.109/2006/20.
[3] See A/AC.109/2007/5.

Chapter V

Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

90. The Special Committee considered the question of economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007.

91. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolution 61/123 of 14 December 2006 on economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 55/146 on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and resolution 61/130 of 14 December 2006 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Additionally, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.12, adopted on 20 June 2007.

92. At the 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007, the Chair drew attention to the various working papers prepared by the Secretariat and containing references to economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2007/2-10 and 12 and Corr.1) and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2007/L.12) (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.7).

93. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.12 without a vote.

94. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.12, adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution II).

Chapter VI

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

95. The Special Committee considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations at its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007.

96. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/231 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 24 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-second session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, including resolution 55/146 declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, as well as the reports of the Secretary-General on the Second Decade (A/56/61, A/60/71 and Add.1).

97. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.11.

98. At the 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/62/65) and to the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (see E/2007/47), as well as to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2007/L.11).

99. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.11 without a vote.

100. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.11, adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution III).

Chapter VII

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

101. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations at its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007.

102. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII), by which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and resolution 61/122 of 14 December 2006, in paragraph 4 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures. Furthermore, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 61/130 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and resolution 55/146 relating to the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

103. At the 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007, the Chair drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/62/67), which reflected the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations by the administering Powers in regard to Territories under their respective administration, as well as to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2007/L.5).

104. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.5 without a vote.

105. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.5 adopted by the Special Committee at its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution I).

Chapter VIII
Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara

106. In its consideration of the questions of Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 61/125 and 61/126 of 14 December 2006 and decision 61/522 of the same date, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. Gibraltar

107. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 3rd meeting, on 5 June 2007.

108. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2007/12 and Corr.1).

109. At the 3rd meeting, the Chair informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question. The Special Committee decided to accede to that request.

110. At the same meeting, the representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.3).

111. At the same meeting, with the consent of the Special Committee, Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, made a statement (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.3).

112. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the beginning of the meeting, a statement was made by Joseph Bossano, Leader of the Opposition in Gibraltar (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.3).

113. On the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its sixty-second session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

B. New Caledonia

114. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007.

115. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2007/9).

116. At the 7th meeting, on 20 June, the Chair drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the working paper on the item and to the text of a draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/2007/L.13 (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.7).

117. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.13 (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.7), with an oral revision by which the words "with satisfaction" would be deleted in operative paragraph 12.

118. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.13, as orally revised, without a vote.

119. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.13 adopted by the Special Committee at its 13th meeting, on 22 June 2007, as orally revised, appears in the present report in the form of the recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution IV).

C. Western Sahara

120. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007.

121. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2007/17).

122. At its 4th meeting, on 6 June 2007, in accordance with a decision taken at the 3rd meeting, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Ahmed Boukhari of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario), who made a statement at the same meeting (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.4).

123. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its sixty-second session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

Chapter IX

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

124. The Special Committee considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands at its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007.

125. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/130 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In paragraph 10 (c) of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, inter alia, to continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. The Special Committee also took into account relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

126. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.

127. The Special Committee considered the 11 Territories at its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007.

128. During its consideration of the items, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2007/2-8; A/AC.109/2007/10; A/AC.109/2007/14-16).

129. At its 7th meeting, on 20 June, in accordance with a decision taken at the beginning of the meeting, Sabina Perez, Hope Cristobal and Keith Camacho made statements on the question of Guam (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.7).

130. At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement wherein she introduced a consolidated draft resolution (A/AC.109/2007/L.9) relating to the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.7).

131. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.9 without a vote.

132. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.9, adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 20 June 2007, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution VI).

Chapter X
Tokelau

133. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau at its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007.

134. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2007/11).

135. At the 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, the Chair made a statement under the item (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.9).

136. At the same meeting, with the consent of the Special Committee, the Ulu o Tokelau and the Administrator of Tokelau made statements (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.9).

137. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.15 (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.9).

138. Also at the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.15 without a vote.

139. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.15, adopted by the Special Committee at its 9th meeting, on 27 June 2007, appears in the present report in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see chap. XII, draft resolution V).

Chapter XI
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

140. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 8th meeting, on 21 June 2007.

141. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

142. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2007/13).

143. At the 8th meeting, the Chair informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item. The Special Committee decided to accede to the requests.

144. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at its 7th meeting, statements were made by The Honourable Richard Davies and The Honourable Ian Hansen of the Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands, James Douglas Lewis and Marcelo Luis Vernet (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.8).

145. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile introduced, also on behalf of Bolivia, Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2007/L.8).

146. At the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.8).

147. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, China, the Congo, Cuba, Indonesia, Paraguay, Peru, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see A/AC.109/2007/SR.8).

148. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.8 without a vote.

149. The text of draft resolution A/AC.109/2007/L.8, adopted by the Special Committee at its 8th meeting, on 21 June 2007, reads as follows:

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19

of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995, A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996, A/AC.109/2096 of 16 June 1997, A/AC.109/2122 of 6 July 1998, A/AC.109/1999/23 of 1 July 1999, A/AC.109/2000/23 of 11 July 2000, A/AC.109/2001/25 of 29 June 2001, A/AC.109/2002/25 of 19 June 2002 and A/AC.109/2003/24 of 16 June 2003, the resolution adopted on 18 June 2004, the resolution adopted on 15 June 2005 and the resolution adopted on 15 June 2006, and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in the resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the President of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that

includes all aspects on the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. *Reiterates its firm support* for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Chapter XII
Recommendations

150. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 61/122 of 14 December 2006, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned, in accordance with their Charter obligations, to transmit or continue to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories for which they are respectively responsible, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, including the constitution, legislative act or executive order providing for the Government of the Territory and the constitutional relationship of the Territory to the administering Power, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

[1] A/62/67.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

Draft resolution II
Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[2]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the Assembly, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991 and 55/146 of 8 December 2000,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/62/23), chap. V.

accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and also to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Reaffirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities that adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that the exploitation of the marine and other natural resources in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration is not in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and does not adversely affect the interests of the peoples of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected

and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also appeals to the media to disseminate information about the developments in this regard;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

Draft resolution III
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General[3] and the report of the Economic and Social Council[4] on the item,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[5]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/37 of 27 July 2006,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Also welcoming the participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

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[3] A/62/65.

[4] E/2007/47.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/62/23), chap. VI.

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations resolutions and decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/231 of 22 December 2006 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other

organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

7. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) Illegal exploitation of the marine and other natural resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,[6] calling for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly, to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G.

Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

13. *Requests* the Chairperson of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the President of the Economic and Social Council;

14. *Welcomes* the publication by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, of an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests that it be disseminated widely;

15. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies, inter alia, with the assistance of the relevant specialized agencies;

17. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

18. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

20. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

21. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

Draft resolution IV
Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia,[7]

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. *Welcomes* the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia since the signing of the Nouméa Accord of 5 May 1998 by the representatives of New Caledonia and the Government of France;[8]

2. *Urges* all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia, to maintain, in the framework of the Nouméa Accord, their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

3. *Notes* the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord aimed at taking more broadly into account the Kanak identity in the political and social organization

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/62/23), chap. VIII.

[8] A/AC.109/2114, annex.

of New Caledonia, and welcomes, in this context, the approval of the territorial Congress in January 2007 to establish the first Kanak Academy, which aims to preserve indigenous languages and dialects;

4. *Acknowledges* those provisions of the Nouméa Accord relating to control of immigration and protection of local employment, and notes that unemployment remains high among Kanaks and that recruitment of foreign mine workers continues;

5. *Notes* the concerns expressed by a group of indigenous people in New Caledonia regarding their underrepresentation in the Territory's governmental and social structures;

6. *Takes note* of the relevant provisions of the Nouméa Accord to the effect that New Caledonia may become a member or associate member of certain international organizations, such as international organizations in the Pacific region, the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization, according to their regulations;

7. *Notes* the agreement between the signatories of the Nouméa Accord that the progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations;

8. *Recalls* the fact that the administering Power invited to New Caledonia, at the time the new institutions were established, a mission of information which comprised representatives of countries of the Pacific region;

9. *Welcomes* the strengthening of ties between New Caledonia and the European Union, and notes the European Development Fund assistance in infrastructural, cultural and human resource developments, including vocational training programmes;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General information as required under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;

11. *Invites* all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all sectors of the population, according to the letter and the spirit of the Nouméa Accord, which is based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

12. *Notes* the efforts of the French authorities to resolve the question of voter registration by adopting, in the French Congress of Parliament, on 19 February 2007, amendments to the French Constitution allowing New Caledonia to restrict eligibility to vote in local polls to those voters registered on the 1998 electoral rolls when the Nouméa Accord was signed, thus ensuring strong representation of the Kanak population;

13. *Welcomes* the measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon and Nouméa Accords;

14. *Also welcomes* the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon and Nouméa Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

15. *Notes* the increase by the Government of France in financial assistance to the Territory, amounting to 910 million euros in 2005 for health, education, payment of public-service salaries and funding development schemes;

16. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous Kanak culture of New Caledonia;

17. *Notes* the positive initiatives aimed at protecting the natural environment of New Caledonia, notably the "Zonéco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

18. *Welcomes* the establishment of a new form of cooperation among Australia, France and New Zealand in terms of surveillance of fishing zones, in accordance with the wishes expressed by France during the France-Oceania Summits in July 2003 and June 2006;

19. *Acknowledges* the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and territorial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

20. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the accession by New Caledonia in October 2006, at the 37th Summit of the Pacific Islands Forum, in Fiji, to the status of associate member of the Pacific Islands Forum, giving the Territory the right to participate in Forum discussions;

21. *Also welcomes* the continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum;

22. *Further welcomes* the cooperative attitude of other States and Territories in the region towards New Caledonia, its economic and political aspirations and its increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

23. *Recalls* the endorsement of the report of the Forum Ministerial Committee on New Caledonia by leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum at its 36th Summit, in October 2005 in Papua New Guinea, and the continuing role of the Forum Ministerial Committee in monitoring developments in the Territory and encouraging closer regional engagements;

24. *Decides* to keep under continuous review the process unfolding in New Caledonia as a result of the signing of the Nouméa Accord;

25. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of New Caledonia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

Draft resolution V
Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau,[9]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 61/127 of 14 December 2006,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Also noting with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Recalling the inauguration in 1999 of a national legislative body, the General Fono, based on village elections by universal adult suffrage and the assumption by that body in June 2003 of full responsibility for the Tokelau budget,

Recalling also the report of the United Nations mission dispatched in August 2002 to Tokelau at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and the representatives of Tokelau,[10]

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Recalling that New Zealand and Tokelau signed in November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out in writing, for the first time, the rights and obligations of the two partner countries,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold a referendum on self-government on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a treaty of free association with New Zealand,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of its capacity for self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for

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[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/62/23), chap. X.

[10] A/AC.109/2002/31.

Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. *Welcomes* the substantial progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils), in particular the delegation of the Administrator's powers to the three taupulega with effect from 1 July 2004 and the assumption by each taupulega from that date of full responsibility for the management of all its public services;

3. *Recalls* the decision of the General Fono in November 2003, following extensive consultations in all three villages and a meeting of the Special Committee on the Constitution of Tokelau, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association, and the discussions subsequently held between Tokelau and New Zealand pursuant to the General Fono decision;

4. *Recalls also* the decision of the General Fono in August 2005 to hold a referendum on self-government on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a treaty of free association with New Zealand, and notes the enactment by the General Fono of rules for the referendum;

5. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's initiative in devising a strategic economic development plan for the period 2002-2005, and notes that a strategic plan for the period 2006-2009 is now being developed in consultation with New Zealand;

6. *Also acknowledges* the continuing assistance that New Zealand has committed to promoting Tokelau's welfare, as well as the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme, including the relief and recovery assistance provided in the aftermath of Cyclone Percy in 2005;

7. *Further acknowledges* Tokelau's need for continued support, given the adjustments that are taking place with the strengthening of its capacity for self-government, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the future development needs of Tokelau and the offer of a donor round table by the United Nations Development Programme, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to announce contributions to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to assist this emerging country in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

9. *Also welcomes* the assurance of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

10. *Further welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau, and their support for its economic and political aspirations and increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

11. *Welcomes* the associate membership of Tokelau in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and its recent accession to membership in the Forum Fisheries Agency, observer status at the Pacific Islands

Forum and associate membership in the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission;

12. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops its economy and governance structures;

13. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau to the Secretary-General;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the successful visit to Tokelau in October 2004 by the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

15. *Notes* the considerable progress made towards the adoption of a Constitution and of national symbols by Tokelau, the steps taken by Tokelau and New Zealand to agree to a draft treaty of free association as a basis for an act of self-determination and the support expressed by Tokelauan communities in New Zealand for the move by Tokelau towards self-determination;

16. *Commends* the professional and transparent conduct of the referendum to determine the future status of Tokelau, which was held from 11 to 15 February 2006 and monitored by the United Nations;

17. *Notes* that the referendum failed by a narrow margin to produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change Tokelau's status as a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand;

18. *Welcomes* the agreement of New Zealand to the request by the Tokelau Council of Ongoing Government to maintain the referendum package of a draft constitution and draft treaty of free association as a possible basis for a future act of self-determination by Tokelau;

19. *Also welcomes* the decision of the General Fono to conduct a further referendum in October 2007 to determine the future status of Tokelau;

20. *Further welcomes* the invitation extended to the United Nations by Tokelau and New Zealand to monitor Tokelau's act of self-determination;

21. *Welcomes* the commitment of both Tokelau and New Zealand to transmit information regarding the outcome of the October 2007 referendum to the Secretary-General;

22. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

Draft resolution VI
Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A
General

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[11]

Recalling all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other resolutions of the Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV), containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing concern that more than forty-six years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[12] there still remain a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by 2010 and the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[13]

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

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[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/62/23), chap. IX.

[12] Resolution 1514 (XV).

[13] A/56/61, annex.

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the stated position of the Government of the United States of America on the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration,

Noting also the stated positions of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the Special Committee and in its regional seminars,

Noting further the constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories affecting the internal structure of governance about which the Special Committee has received information,

Aware of the importance both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of elected and appointed representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must take place with the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory, under the aegis of the United Nations, on a case-by-case basis, and that the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained,

Noting that a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories have expressed concern at the procedure followed by some administering Powers, contrary to the wishes of the Territories themselves, of amending or enacting legislation for application to the Territories, either through orders in council, in order to apply to the Territories the international treaty obligations of the administering Power, or through the unilateral application of laws and regulations,

Aware of the importance of the international financial services for the economies of some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting the continued cooperation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at the local and regional levels, including participation in the work of regional organizations,

Mindful that United Nations visiting and special missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, that some Territories have not received a United Nations visiting mission for a long time and that no visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories, and considering the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers,

Mindful also that, in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for it to be apprised by the administering Powers and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Recognizing the need for the Special Committee to ensure that the appropriate bodies of the United Nations actively pursue a public awareness campaign aimed at

assisting the peoples of the Territories in gaining a better understanding of the options of self-determination,

Mindful, in this connection, that the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters and other venues, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, provides a helpful means for the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate, and that the regional nature of the seminars, which alternate between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Mindful also that the 2006 Pacific regional seminar was held on Yanuca Island, Fiji, from 28 to 30 November, and the 2007 Caribbean regional seminar was held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22 to 24 May,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and, in this connection, bearing in mind the applicability to the Territories of the programmes of action of all United Nations world conferences[14] and special sessions of the General Assembly in the economic and social sphere,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Pacific Islands Forum and the agencies of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific,

Aware that the Human Rights Committee, as part of its mandate under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[15] reviews the status of the self-determination process, including in small island Territories under examination by the Special Committee,

Recalling the ongoing efforts of the Special Committee in carrying out a critical review of its work with the aim of making appropriate and constructive recommendations and decisions to attain its objectives in accordance with its mandate,

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[14] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum); *Report of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994* (A/CONF.172/9), chap. I; *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I; *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex; *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II; *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex; *Report of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban, 31 August-8 September 2001* (A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1), chap. I.

[15] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Recognizing that the annual background working papers prepared by the Secretariat on developments in each of the small Territories,[16] as well as the substantive documentation and information furnished by experts, scholars, non-governmental organizations and other sources, have provided important inputs in updating the present resolution,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Also reaffirms* that, in the process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right, as recognized under the relevant human rights conventions;

3. *Further reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection reiterates its long-standing call for the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments and appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, to develop political education programmes for the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with the legitimate political status options, based on the principles clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions;

4. *Requests* the administering Powers to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the Special Committee being apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and enhancing its understanding of their conditions, including the nature and scope of the existing political and constitutional arrangements between the Non-Self-Governing Territories and their respective administering Powers;

6. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

7. *Requests* the Territories and the administering Powers to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories against any degradation, and once again requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in the Territories;

8. *Welcomes* the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional activities, including the work of regional organizations;

9. *Stresses* the importance of implementing the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[3] in particular by expediting the application of the work programme for the decolonization of each Non-Self-Governing Territory, on a case-by-case basis, as well as by ensuring that

[16] A/AC.109/2007/2-8, 10, 14, 15 and 16.

periodic analyses are undertaken of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration in each Territory, and that the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on each Territory should fully reflect developments in those Territories;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to participate in and cooperate fully with the work of the Special Committee in order to implement the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter and the Declaration, and in order to advise the Special Committee on the implementation of provisions under Article 73 *b* of the Charter on efforts to promote self-government in the Territories, and encourages the administering Powers to facilitate visiting and special missions to the Territories;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in a world free of colonialism within the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the constitutional reviews in the respective Territories administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and led by the territorial Governments, designed to address internal constitutional structures within the present territorial arrangements;

13. *Requests* that the Secretary-General continue to report to the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the First and Second International Decades;

14. *Reiterates its request* that the Human Rights Committee collaborate with the Special Committee, within the framework of its mandate on the right to self-determination as contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[5] with the aim of exchanging information, given that the Committee is mandated to review the situation, including political and constitutional developments, in many of the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are within the purview of the Special Committee;

15. *Requests* the Special Committee to collaborate with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, within the framework of their respective mandates, with the aim of exchanging information on developments in those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are reviewed by those bodies;

16. *Also requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session and on the implementation of the present resolution.

B

Individual Territories

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

I. American Samoa

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on American Samoa[17] and other relevant information,

Noting the position of the administering Power and the statements made by representatives of American Samoa in the regional seminars expressing satisfaction with the Territory's present relationship with the United States of America,

Noting also that the Department of the Interior of the United States of America provides that the Secretary of the Interior has administrative jurisdiction over American Samoa,[18]

Noting further that American Samoa continues to be the only United States Territory to receive financial assistance from the administering Power for the operations of the territorial Government, and calling upon the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the diversification of its economy,

Noting that the Territory's non-voting delegate to the Congress of the United States of America has formally requested that the administering Power declare its official position on the status of American Samoa before the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Noting also the statement of the representative of the Governor of the Territory at the Pacific regional seminar, held on Yanuca Island, Fiji, from 28 to 30 November 2006, requesting the Special Committee to review the Territory's status as a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Future Political Status Study Commission, which began its work in June 2006 and prepared its report in January 2007, to study alternative forms of future political status open to American Samoa and to assess the advantages and disadvantages of each;

2. *Stresses the importance* of the invitation previously extended to the Special Committee by the Governor of American Samoa to send a visiting mission to the Territory, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chairperson of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in facilitating its work concerning a public awareness programme recommended by the Future Political Status Study Commission in its 2007 report, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, in the context of its public education programme;

II. Anguilla

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Anguilla[19] and other relevant information,

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[17] A/AC.109/2007/15.

[18] Pursuant to Secretary's Order 2657, Department of the Interior, United States of America.

[19] A/AC.109/2007/8.

Recalling the holding of the 2003 Caribbean regional seminar in Anguilla, the first time that the seminar had been held in a Non-Self-Governing Territory,

Taking note of the constitutional review process resumed by the territorial Government in 2006, the work of the newly established Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, which prepared its report in August 2006, and the holding of public and other consultative meetings in 2007 on proposed constitutional amendments to be presented to the administering Power,

Aware that the Government intends to continue its commitment to high-end tourism and the implementation of various regulations in the financial services sector,

Noting the participation of the Territory as an associate member in the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

1. *Welcomes* the establishment of a new Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission, the issuance of its report in 2006 and the holding of public and other consultative meetings in early 2007, with the aim of making recommendations to the administering Power on proposed changes to the Constitution in place in the Territory;

2. *Stresses the importance* of the previously expressed desire of the territorial Government for a visiting mission by the Special Committee, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate such a mission, if the territorial Government so desires, and requests the Chairperson of the Special Committee to take all the necessary steps to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in facilitating its work concerning public consultative outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, in the context of its public consultative outreach efforts;

III. Bermuda

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Bermuda[20] and other relevant information,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties on the future status of the Territory,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to Bermuda in 2005 at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

1. *Stresses the importance* of the 2005 report of the Bermuda Independence Commission, which provides a thorough and meticulous examination of the facts

[20] A/AC.109/2007/10.

surrounding independence, and regrets that the plans for public meetings and the presentation of a Green Paper to the House of Assembly followed by a White Paper outlining the policy proposals for an independent Bermuda have so far not materialized;

2. *Decides* to follow closely the developments concerning the future political status of Bermuda under way in the Territory, and calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, in the context of its public education programme;

IV. British Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the British Virgin Islands[21] and other relevant information,

Recalling the 1993 report of the Constitutional Commissioners, and the 1996 debate on the report in the Legislative Council of the Territory, the establishment of the Constitutional Review Commission in 2004 and the completion in 2005 of its report providing recommendations on constitutional modernization, and noting the debate on the report held in the Legislative Council in 2005,

Noting the statement made at the Pacific regional seminar, held on Yanuca Island, Fiji, from 28 to 30 November 2006, by the representative of the territorial Government, who presented an analysis of the internal constitutional review process and urged the Special Committee to rethink and broaden the concept of self-determination for certain Territories, on a case-by-case basis,

Noting also that the Territory continues to emerge as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres, with unprecedented growth in its financial and tourism services sectors,

1. *Welcomes* the negotiations on constitutional advancement and balance of authority between the administering Power and the territorial Government during 2006-2007 resulting in the draft constitution that was unanimously passed by the Legislative Council of the Territory in May 2007;

2. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the territorial Government to focus the economic base of the Territory more on local ownership and on professional service industries other than financial services;

3. *Further welcomes* the ongoing work of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the elected Governments of the British Virgin Islands and the United States Virgin Islands as a mechanism for functional cooperation between the two neighbouring Territories;

V. Cayman Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Cayman Islands[22] and other relevant information,

Taking note also of the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Commission, which contained a draft constitution for the consideration of

[21] A/AC.109/2007/3.

[22] A/AC.109/2007/2.

the people of the Territory, the 2003 draft constitution offered by the administering Power and the subsequent discussions between the Territory and the administering Power in 2003,

Noting with interest the reopened discussions between the administering Power and the territorial Government in 2006 on constitutional modernization with the aim of ascertaining the views of the people by way of referendum,

Noting that the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Saint George's, from 22 to 24 May 2007, discussed the establishment of the Cayman Islands Constitutional Review Secretariat, which had begun its work in March 2007 to raise public awareness and disseminate information about the Territory's constitutional review process,

Acknowledging the indication by the territorial Government that certain cost-of-living issues, such as inflation, are a cause for concern,

1. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in facilitating its work concerning public awareness outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, in the context of its public awareness outreach efforts;

2. *Welcomes* the announcement made by the territorial Government that it intends to address various cost-of-living issues in a systematic manner;

VI. Guam

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Guam[23] and other relevant information,

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware that negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act are no longer continuing and that Guam has established a process for a self-determination vote by the eligible Chamorro voters,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

[23] A/AC.109/2007/16.

Aware of concerns expressed by many residents regarding the potential social and other impacts of the impending transfer of additional military personnel of the administering Power to the Territory,

Aware also of the Government-wide austerity measures undertaken since February 2007, when the Governor declared a financial "state of emergency",

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

1. *Calls once again* upon the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the plebiscite of 1987 and as provided for in Guam law, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government of Guam to enter into negotiations on the matter, and requests the administering Power to inform the Secretary-General of progress to that end;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. *Also requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

4. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam;

5. *Recalls* the request by the elected Governor to the administering Power to lift restrictions to allow for foreign airlines to transport passengers between Guam and the United States of America to provide for a more competitive market and increased visitor arrivals;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in facilitating public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, in support of such efforts;

VII. Montserrat

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat[24] and other relevant information,

Recalling the 2002 report of the Constitutional Review Commission, which contains a series of recommendations on constitutional advancement, including the devolution of power from the appointed Governor to the elected Government, and the call in favour of a free-association arrangement,

Recalling also the convening of a committee of the House of Assembly in 2005 to review the report, and the subsequent discussions between the elected Government and the administering Power on constitutional advancement and devolution of power,

[24] A/AC.109/2007/4.

Noting that the development needs prevailing in Montserrat were discussed by the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22 to 24 May 2007,

Noting also the statements made by participants of the Caribbean regional seminar encouraging the administering Power to commit sufficient resources to meet the Territory's special needs,

Noting with concern the continued consequences of the volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of three quarters of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, which continues to have enduring consequences for the economy of the island,

Acknowledging the continued assistance provided to the Territory by States members of the Caribbean Community, in particular Antigua and Barbuda, which has offered safe refuge and access to educational and health facilities, as well as employment for thousands who have left the Territory,

Noting the continuing efforts of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with the consequences of the volcanic eruption,

1. *Welcomes* the intention of the territorial Government to negotiate improvements to the present Constitution so as to preserve its ability to move towards greater self-determination at a later stage, and to publish and discuss publicly the Constitution when a final draft, which was expected in the first quarter of 2007, is ready;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in facilitating its work concerning public outreach efforts, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, in the context of its public outreach efforts;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to continue to provide assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

VIII. Pitcairn

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Pitcairn[25] and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Noting the position of the representative of the elected Government, as expressed at the 2004 Pacific regional seminar, that the people of the Territory did not fully understand all the possibilities or the significance of the various self-determination options that might be available to them, and that the review of the Constitution was deferred,

1. *Requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory and to continue its discussions with the representatives of Pitcairn on how best to support their economic security;

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[25] A/AC.109/2007/6.

2. *Notes* the position of the representative of the elected Government of the Territory favouring discussions on self-determination in advance of a constitutional review, and considers that a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory would heighten the awareness of the people of their political future;

IX. Saint Helena

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Saint Helena[26] and other relevant information,

Taking into account the unique character of Saint Helena, its population and its natural resources,

Noting the constitutional review process led by the territorial Government and the consultative poll with regard to a new constitution, held in Saint Helena in May 2005,

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of Saint Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production, continuing high unemployment and limited transport and communications,

Noting the importance of improving the infrastructure and accessibility of Saint Helena,

Noting also the importance of the right to nationality for Saint Helenians and their request that it, in principle, be included in the new Constitution,

Noting with concern the problem of unemployment on the island and the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with it,

1. *Welcomes* the continuing constitutional review process and the consultative poll led by the Government of Saint Helena in cooperation with the administering Power;

2. *Also welcomes* the decision by the administering Power to provide funding for the construction of an international airport on Saint Helena to become operational in 2011-2012, including all required infrastructure;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development challenges, including the high unemployment and the limited transport and communications problems, as well as to support the additional infrastructure required for the airport project;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take into account the concerns of Saint Helenians with regard to the right to nationality;

X. Turks and Caicos Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Turks and Caicos Islands[27] and other relevant information,

Recalling the 2002 report of the Constitutional Modernization Review Body, which examined the existing Constitution and made recommendations on the

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[26] A/AC.109/2007/14.

[27] A/AC.109/2007/5.

internal structure of government and devolution of power from the appointed Governor to the elected Government, and acknowledging the new Constitution agreed between the administering Power and the territorial Government, its circulation within the Government and among the general public, and its entering into force in August 2006,

Noting the support for the new Constitution of the Territory among the participants of the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22 to 24 May 2007,

Noting also that the new Constitution provides for a Governor, who would maintain reserved powers in the Territory, to be appointed by the administering Power,

Recalling the dispatch of the United Nations special mission to the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006, at the request of the territorial Government and with the concurrence of the administering Power, which provided information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination, on the legitimate political status options as clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and on the experiences of other small States that have achieved a full measure of self-government,

Acknowledging the significant and steady period of economic expansion fuelled by the continuing growth of high-end tourism,

1. *Welcomes* the new Constitution of the Territory, which took effect in August 2006, and notes the emphasis placed by the re-elected territorial Government on economic development and modernization;

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts made by the Government addressing the need for attention to be paid to the enhancement of social cohesion across the Territory;

XI. United States Virgin Islands

Taking note of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the United States Virgin Islands[28] and other relevant information,

Acknowledging with interest the upcoming Constitutional Convention, the fifth attempt to review the existing Revised Organic Act, which organizes the internal governance arrangements, as well as the various related efforts in implementing a public education programme on the Constitution, as outlined in a statement by a participant from the Territory presented to the Caribbean regional seminar, held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22 to 24 May 2007,

1. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals, in particular through the upcoming internal Constitutional Convention exercise;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory in facilitating its work concerning a public education programme, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter of the United Nations, and calls upon the relevant United

[28] A/AC.109/2007/7.

Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, in the context of its public education programme;

3. *Reiterates its call* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;

4. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the Inter-Virgin Islands Council between the elected Governments of the United States Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands as a mechanism for functional cooperation between the two neighbouring Territories;

5. *Notes* the position of the territorial Government supporting the ownership and control of the natural resources of the Territory, including marine resources, and its calls for the return of those marine resources to its jurisdiction.

Draft resolution VII
Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization,[29]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular Assembly resolution 61/129 of 14 December 2006,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to implementing the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,[30]

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Recognizing the role played by the administering Powers in transmitting information to the Secretary-General in accordance with the terms of Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the role of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, through its United Nations information centres, in the dissemination of information at the regional level on the activities of the United Nations,

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[29] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/62/23), chap. III.

[30] A/56/61, annex.

Recalling its resolution 61/129, in which it requested the Department, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee, to prepare an information leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to disseminate it widely in them,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. *Approves* the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization, in particular the preparation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/129, of the information leaflet entitled "What the UN Can Do to Assist Non-Self-Governing Territories", issued in March 2007;

2. *Considers it important* to continue and expand its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to this end, requests the Department of Public Information to empower the United Nations information centres in the relevant regions to disseminate material to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further enhance the information provided on the United Nations decolonization website by including the full series of reports of the regional seminars on decolonization, the statements and scholarly papers presented at those seminars and links to the full series of reports of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to update web-based information on the assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

5. *Requests* the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To develop procedures to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To explore the idea of a programme of collaboration with the decolonization focal points of territorial Governments, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, to help improve the exchange of information;

(d) To encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To encourage the involvement of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(f) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* all States, including the administering Powers, to accelerate the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution VIII
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The General Assembly,

Having examined the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[31]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all its subsequent resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration, the most recent of which was resolution 61/130 of 14 December 2006, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, by which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the need to examine ways to ascertain the wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the basis of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization,

Recognizing that the eradication of colonialism has been one of the priorities of the United Nations and continues to be one of its priorities for the decade that began in 2001,

Reconfirming the need to take measures to eliminate colonialism by 2010, as called for in its resolution 55/146,

Reiterating its conviction of the need for the eradication of colonialism, as well as racial discrimination and violations of basic human rights,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the Special Committee in contributing to the effective and complete implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization,

Stressing the importance of the formal participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee,

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[31] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/62/23).

Noting with interest the cooperation and active participation of some administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee, and encouraging the others also to do so,

Taking note that the Pacific regional seminar, originally scheduled to convene from 23 to 25 May 2006 in Timor-Leste, was held on Yanuca Island, Fiji, from 28 to 30 November 2006, and that the Caribbean regional seminar was held in Saint George's, Grenada, from 22 to 24 May 2007,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 1514 (XV) and all other resolutions and decisions on decolonization, including its resolution 55/146, by which it declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and calls upon the administering Powers, in accordance with those resolutions, to take all necessary steps to enable the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned to exercise fully as soon as possible their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. *Reaffirms once again* that the existence of colonialism in any form or manifestation, including economic exploitation, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[32]

3. *Reaffirms its determination* to continue to take all steps necessary to bring about the complete and speedy eradication of colonialism and the faithful observance by all States of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

4. *Affirms once again its support* for the aspirations of the peoples under colonial rule to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop and finalize, before the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

6. *Commends* the professional, open and transparent referendum to determine the future status of Tokelau, held under United Nations supervision in February 2006, and welcomes the announcement by New Zealand and Tokelau of their intention to hold another referendum in November 2007;

7. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

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[32] Resolution 217 A (III).

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend, as appropriate, to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, before the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[33]

8. *Recognizes* that the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, represents an important legislative authority for the attainment of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the case-by-case assessment of the attainment of self-government in each Territory can make an important contribution to this process;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in particular the administering Powers, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give effect within their respective spheres of competence to the recommendations of the Special Committee for the implementation of the Declaration and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to ensure that economic and other activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the peoples but instead promote development, and to assist them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

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[33] See resolution 54/91.

11. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

12. *Urges* all States, directly and through their action in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to provide moral and material assistance as needed to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests the administering Powers to take steps to enlist and make effective use of all possible assistance, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, in the strengthening of the economies of those Territories;

13. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

14. *Calls upon* all the administering Powers to cooperate fully in the work of the Special Committee and to participate formally in the Committee's future sessions;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to provide economic, social and other assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to continue to do so, as appropriate, after they exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

16. *Approves* the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2007,[31] including the programme of work envisaged for 2008;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Committee with the facilities and services required for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other resolutions and decisions on decolonization adopted by the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

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